

CLERK: (Read record vote as found on pages 1760-61 of the Legislative Journal.) 40 ayes, 6 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The bill passes. I understand we have a problem on LB 280 and 280A. Technically, 280 can't pass until the A bill is in shape. So we will take 280A first. Mr. Clerk, you have an amendment, I believe, on it.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vard Johnson would move to return 280A to Select File for a specific amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I hope that you will listen to me fairly attentively on Final Reading on this bill because I didn't have my amendment photocopied so that you could have it, so I will have to explain it really carefully. LB 280, as you probably remember, is the bill to increase the liquor taxes and I think that bill is moving through fine. LB 280A is a companion bill which in effect takes a lot of the liquor tax increases and puts some of that money into the state's mental health program, some of that money into the state's alcoholism program and some of that money into the corrections program. Now the truth of the matter is if all the money that LB 280 would generate was put into those three programs, then those three programs would have a whopping increase in their budgets and that is particularly so in relationship to the other state programs that, if you have read the appropriation bills, you will note are getting very, very small increases in their budgets. Now I have felt that it would be wrong for us to take all the money in 280 and put it in those three programs. So I have offered an amendment which will do the following. Number one, the amendment will allocate \$300,000 in general funds to the alcoholism program this year and \$500,000 in federal funds to the alcoholism program this year; \$300,000 in general funds to the mental health program this year and \$500,000 in federal funds to the mental health program this year, and it will take out the corrections money entirely. This amendment, if adopted, would result in about \$1.3 million of the tax increase generated from the increase in the alcohol tax simply going into general funds with the remaining \$600,000 going into the alcoholism program and the mental